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## ECC'S JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



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### NEWS AND EVENTS



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#### Regional Digital Inclusion Plan

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**Digital Inclusion Listening Session Held in Jones County.** In partnership with Jones County Community Hope, ECC held a Jones County Digital Inclusion Plan Listening Session at Kings Chapel FWB Church in Trenton on December 28th. This is a part of ECC's Digital Inclusion Plan project, in which ECC is partnering with North Carolina State University's Institute for Emerging Issues (NCSU IEI) and the NCSU Friday Institute for Educational Innovation to develop a Regional Digital Inclusion Plan for our nine-county region. A digital inclusion plan is a tool and resource for a community to assess who has the access and resources to utilize, broadband, the internet, computers, and all the resources that come along with that.

The conversations from these listening sessions will help us tell the narrative of the communities' needs and gaps to help increase digital resources, literacy, and access. We plan to have listening sessions in Wayne and Craven Counties in the near future.

Thank you to Jones County Community Hope for their partnership with this effort!



Participants in Jones County's Listening Session at Kings Chapel FWB Church in Trenton.



Presenter, Dr. Jackman-Ryan, NCSU, led the discussions.



The Digital Inclusion Listening Session planners were Dr. Jackman-Ryan, Adama Washington (NCSU), Beverly Hines (Jones Co. Community Hope), and David Bone.

**ECC's General Membership Board Meeting – January 9th.** The first 2025 meeting of the ECC General Membership Board will be on Thursday, January 9th at 6:30 PM. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. A Budget and Audit Committee meeting will be held prior to dinner.

The meeting will be available via Zoom at: <https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/84405446987?pwd=mtsai4Sfwch8xqG9tK2pNCPeolvxVL.1>.

**Local Government Employees Collect Donations for those Impacted by Hurricane Helene.** The NC Association of Regional Councils of Government (NCARCOG) continues to partner with the Civic Local Foundation which serves as a trusted source in the collection of financial donations to help communities recover from the catastrophic damage caused by Hurricane Helene. Civic Local Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Civic and Local Government Credit Unions, shares the same core values of NCARCOG - as a resource to the state of North Carolina and its local governments.

“Our goal is to be a resource and catalyst to help rebuild our state. We can’t do this alone and the partnership with Civic Local Foundation represents unity in our efforts to help support North Carolinians affected by this storm. We are grateful to everyone who has donated thus far and hope to continue to receive financial support to help impacted communities,” stated Justin Hembree, NCARCOG Board Chair.

Through this collaborative partnership, NCARCOG will distribute funding to local government entities and employees impacted by the storm, assist with recovery efforts administered by regional Council of Government agencies, and help supporting organizations, such as non-profits and local businesses to provide resources and emergency supplies. Civic and Local Government Credit Unions are assuming 100% of the administrative costs for the disbursement of donations thereby increasing the direct assistance to Western North Carolina. For more information, visit <https://civiclfsquare.site/>.

**Construction of Regional PACE Facility in New Bern is near Completion.** The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) is a managed care program for older adults. PACE helps Seniors avoid nursing homes, and instead, receive the care and services necessary to be safe, comfortable, and healthy while living in their own homes - in community - as long as possible. For more information about PACE, visit the NC PACE Association web page, at <https://www.ncpace.org/>.

There are 11 PACE organizations operating in 12 locations in NC. Currently, no PACE facility is in operation in the ECC region; however, Carolina Senior Care, <https://carolinaseniorcare.org/>, a non-profit provider of PACE services, is building a regional PACE facility in New Bern at 3681 Neuse Blvd. Carolina Senior Care-East is nearing completion and will be operational in the near future. It

will offer numerous services for patients, including physician care, nursing services, recreational activities, transportation, home health care, preventative services, vision care, dental care, prescription drugs, adult day health care, and numerous other offerings.

In order to qualify for PACE, individuals must also be deemed nursing home eligible by the state, and they must be capable of living safely at home with the support of PACE services. The service area, defined by designated zip codes, will be available for Seniors 55 and older who reside anywhere in Craven, Pamlico, and Jones Counties, as well as those who live in certain portions of Carteret, Beaufort, Lenoir and Onslow Counties.

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**ECC will host Ethics Training for Elected Officials on Wed., Feb. 5th, 6:00-9:00 PM.**

ECC is once again partnering with Attorney David Baxter of Sumrell Sugg to provide the required ethics training for newly elected and re-elected local government officials. A light dinner (pizza) will be served. To register for the event, visit

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/fbra7sw/lp/85a6f88f-e779-41e2-856c-6bo81da86520> or use the QR code below:



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## ECC Area Agency on Aging (AAA) News

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**ECCAAA Holiday Celebrations:**

Greene County Senior Center hosted a Middle School Mini Band Concert on Dec. 19th and a Party with Santa on Dec. 20th.

Carteret Senior Center held a Christmas event on Dec. 20th at the Leon Mann, Jr. Enrichment Center.

ECCAAA Staff shared Christmas with 200 Wayne County Seniors on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>; the festivities were held in the Wayne County Senior Center at the Maxwell Center in Goldsboro. ECCAAA Staff also shared information about elder abuse, caregiver topics, the Ombudsman Program, scams, and healthy aging topics during the many Christmas events.



The 1st set of dancers  
in Wayne County.



ECCAAA Staff - Amanda Young,  
David Rosado, Lauren Latshaw,  
Angelia Pridgen, and January  
Brown.



Another set of dancers.



Yet another set of dancers.



And a final set of dancers.

ECCAAA Director, David Rosado, with Wayne County Senior Leaders play music.

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**Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC) & Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL) Meetings in ECC's Offices – January 13th.** ECC's Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC) will meet on Monday, January 13th at 10:00 AM and ECC's Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL) Meeting will follow at 11:00 AM.

During the RAAC Meeting, staff will share updates regarding programs and services within the region, as well as upcoming events. RAAC will be welcoming new representation for Craven County and voting in a new Senior Tar Heel Legislator from Carteret County.

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**AAA Presented Aging ARPA Funding Awards to Community Service Providers** In early December ECCAAA allocated all \$275,000 available in Title IIIB Supportive Services: \$212,950 in Title IIIC Congregate left \$73,050; \$33,100 of Title IIIE Family Caregiver Support Program left \$148,777; and \$21,600 in Title IIID Health Promotion and Disease Prevention left \$25,400.

The ECCAAA team will continue to seek program partners for the remaining funds with the goal of seeking projects/services that can be completed by September 30, 2025.

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**Technology Presentation for Older Adults in Onslow.** On Dec. 9th ECCAAA staff member, January Brown, provided a presentation on technology and older adults for Onslow Senior Services staff. Participants learned about different devices to assist older adults to remain independent in their homes. Staff also offered information on the Onslow Sheriff's Department program, Project Lifesaver, that provides resources for agencies to assist with devices and how to provide information to clients they serve.

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**Ombudsmen Visits** continue at various facilities in the region.

**Older Americans Act Monitoring** continues to conduct assessments throughout the region; ECCAAA will complete their Older Americans Act monitoring assessments by April 2025.

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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New Year's Day, Jan. 1, ECC office - closed.

ECC General Membership Board, Jan. 9, Meeting 6:00 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, ECC Board Room.

Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC) Meeting, Jan. 13, 10:00 AM, ECC Offices.

Senior Tar Heel Legislature Committee (STHL) Meeting, Jan. 13, 11:00 AM, ECC Offices.

ECRPO TCC/TAC Meeting, Jan. 16, 9:30 AM at Lan Grange Community Center.

DERPO TCC Meeting, Jan. 21, 10:00- 11:30 AM, ECC Board Room, Zoom.

DERPO TAC Meeting, Jan. 28, 10:00- 11:30 AM, ECC Board Room, Zoom.

Ethics Training for Elected Officials, Feb. 5, 6:00-9:00 PM, ECC Office.

Grant Writing Workshop, Feb. 18-19, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM, ECC's Board Room.

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## STAY CONNECTED!



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*Eastern Carolina Council Mission - to improve the region's quality of life by providing human, planning, and economic development services to local governments and area residents by leveraging resources and collaborating regionally.*

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